

DOCKET NO: 208608US0PCT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
THOMAS DANIEL, ET AL. : EXAMINER: METZMAIER  
SERIAL NO: 09/831,915 :  
FILED: MAY 25, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1796  
FOR: HYDROGELS CAPABLE OF :  
ABSORBING AQUEOUS FLUIDS

**REPLY BRIEF**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Responsive to the Examiner's Answer mailed January 28, 2008, please  
consider the following:

The Examiner adheres to the rejection of (A) Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-14, 16, 18,  
20-21 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Procter & Gamble (WO 97/46195) in  
view of Trinh et al (US 5,429,628) and Modern Superabsorbent Polymer Technology  
and (B) Claims 4-5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Procter & Gamble (WO  
97/46195) in view of Trinh et al (US 5,429,628).

These rejections are again traversed.

Claims 1, 10 and 18 are independent. Claims 1 and 18 relate to a dried  
hydrogel and Claim 10 relates to a method of making a hydrogel.